

**Obstetrics and Neonatology****Speaker: Carol Yochum**

Obstetrics is the branch of medicine that deals with childbirth and the care of the mother before and after birth. Neonatology is the branch of medicine that deals with the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the newborn.

Let's start with the terms relating to pregnancy –

Gamete is a mature germ cell. This would be sperm for male and ovum for female.

Ovulation is the process of expulsion of a mature ovum from an ovary.

Conception or fertilization is the beginning of pregnancy.

A zygote is a cell formed by the union of the sperm and ovum.

The gestation period is the period from conception to birth.

Implantation is the term for the embedding of the zygote in the uterine lining.

An embryo is an unborn offspring from implantation to the end of the second month of pregnancy.

A fetus is referred to as an unborn offspring from beginning of the third month of pregnancy until birth.

The amniotic sac surrounds the fetus before delivery. The outermost layer of the fetal membrane is the chorion. The innermost layer of the fetal membrane is the amnion.

The placenta grows on the wall of the uterus during pregnancy; and provides nourishment to the unborn child.

Here are some the most common combining forms in Obstetrics and Neonatology:

amni/o, amnion/o	amnion, amniotic fluid
cephal / o	head
chori/o	chorion
embryo/o	embryo, to be full
esophag/o	esophagus
fet/o, fet/i	fetus, unborn child
gravid/o	pregnancy
lact / o	milk

nat/o	birth
omphal/o	umbilicus, navel
par/o, part/o	bear, give birth to, labor, childbirth
pelv/i, pelv/o	pelvic bone, pelvis
prim/i	first
pseud/o	false
puerper/o	childbirth
pylor/o	pylorus (pyloric sphincter)
terat/o	malformations

The following are common prefixes used with obstetrics and neonatology:

ante- , pre-	before
micro-	small
mult/i	many
nulli	none
post-	after

Let's continue with suffixes:

-amnios	amnion, amniotic fluid
-cysis	pregnancy
-partum	childbirth, labor
-rrhexis	rupture
-tocia	birth, labor

Let's start to break our terms down for this unit:

**Amnionitis** – *itis* means inflammation, *amnion/o* means amnion; so amnionitis is inflammation of the amnion.

**Amniotomy** – *tomy* means incision, *amnion/o* means amnion; so amniotomy means incision in the amnion (induction of labor).

**Choriocarcinoma** – *carcinoma* means cancerous tumor, *chori/o* means chorion; so choriocarcinoma means cancerous tumor of the chorion.

**Lactogenic** – *genic* means producing, *lact/o* means milk; so lactogenic means producing milk.

**Multigravida** – *gravid* is pregnancy, *multi* is many; so multigravida is primigravida is many pregnancies (referring to two or more times).

**Neonate** – *nat/o* is birth, *neo* is new; so a neonate is a new birth or new born (from birth to 4 weeks).

**Neonatologist** – *logist* means one who studies and treats (specialist, physician), *neo* is new, *nat/o* is birth; so a neonatologist is a physician who studies and treats disorders of the newborn.

**Omphalocele** – *cele* is hernia or protrusion, *omphal/o* is umbilicus or navel; so omphalocele is herniation at the umbilicus.

**Postpartum** – *post* is after, *part/o* is childbirth; so postpartum is after childbirth.

**Primigravida** – *gravid/o* is pregnancy, *prim/i* is first; so primigravida is the first pregnancy.

**Primipara** – *par/o* is to bear, give birth to, labor, childbirth; *prim/i* is first; so primipara is the first birth.

**Pseudocyesis** – *pseudo* is false, *cyesis* is pregnancy; so pseudocyesis is a false pregnancy.

**Salpingocyesis** – *cyesis* is pregnancy, *salping/o* is fallopian tube; so salpingocyesis is a pregnancy occurring in the fallopian tube, known as an ectopic pregnancy.

Terms not built from word parts:

**Congenital anomaly** – abnormality present at birth

**Erythroblastosis fetalis** – condition is usually caused by incompatibility of the infant's and mother's blood; occurring when the mother's blood is Rh-negative and the infant's blood is Rh-positive

**Meconium** – the first stool of the newborn

**Puerperium** – period from delivery until the reproductive organs return to normal (it take approximately six weeks)

Abbreviations associated with Obstetrics and Neonatology:

C/S, C-section	cesarean section
EDD	expected date of delivery
LMP	last menstrual period
LNMP	last normal menstrual period

multip	multipara
NB	newborn
OB	obstetrics
RDS	respiratory distress syndrome

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